

OK

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR (Perm Oblast, Irkutsk Oblast, and Komi ASSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Concentration Camp 243/9 near Cherdyn and Concentration Camp near Vozhayel	DATE DISTR.	9 April 1959
	2. Zimka Concentration Camp near Pechora	NO. PAGES	2
	3. Vorkuta Mine No. 8 and Vorkuta Labor Camp No. 9	REFERENCES	25X1
DATE OF INFO.	4. Forced Labor Camps in the Tayshet-Angara River Area		
PLACE & DATE ACQ			25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

The following reports on concentration camps near Cherdyn (N 60-25, E 56-39), Vozhayel (N 62-51, E 52-21), Pechora (N 65-25, E 57-02), Tayshet-Angara area (N 55-57, E 98-02), Vorkuta (N 66-22, E 70-08), and a mining installation at Vorkuta

25X1

Attachment 1 is a report of general descriptive information, an overlay map and a memory sketch with legend of concentration camps 243/9 near Cherdyn and 241/1 near Vozhayel.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

STATE	X	ARMY	#	X	NAVY	X	AIR	15	FBI	AEC				
(Attachment 4)														
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")														

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

- 2 -

Attachment 2 is a report [redacted] 25X1
of general descriptive information and two [redacted] sketches with legends of the
Zimka concentration camp near Pechora.

Attachment 3 is a report [redacted]
of general descriptive information and two [redacted] sketches with legends of
Mine No. 8 and Labor Camp No. 9 at Vorkuta.

Attachment 4 is a [redacted] language report [redacted] 25X1
of general descriptive information of forced labor camps in the Tayshet-
Angara River area.

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/21 : CIA-RDP80T00246A047900330001-4

Page Denied

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Denied

SECRET

1602 R1

Concentration Camp 241/1

Location

1. From 1951 to 1953, [] concentration camp number 241/1, the main compound of 93 [] and all bearing the number 241 [] was located some 140 kilometers from the capitol city of Syktyvkar (N61-40, E50-51), in the Zheleznodorozhnyy rayon, and 16 to 18 kilometers in an unknown direction from the village of Vozhael (N62-50, E51-20). The approximate area is located on the accompanying overlay, page ____.

25X1

Geography

2. The camp was within approximately 10 kilometers of the Vysmy (sic) river, on a flat, swampy terrain consisting entirely of virgin forest. The area was infested with mosquitoes but of a type not carrying malaria or other infectious diseases. Temperatures were extreme. Winter lasted six to seven months with up to 1.50 meters of snow and temperatures as low as 45°C below zero, freezing the snow and making travel across it easy. Summers were stormy with copious showers and temperatures rising to 35°C, but without strong winds.

Personnel

3. There were approximately 800 internees in the camp, the majority Russian and the rest equally divided as to race and the region from which they came. The guards, numbering about 400 officers and men, were members of the frontier guards of the Soviet army and were distinguished by their green berets. They carried rifles or automatic pistols.

Construction

4. All of the buildings, including the internees' barracks and the guards' quarters, were built of wood with the single exception of the brick kitchens. All of the roads within the camp as well as those into the surrounding forests were of wood, built on a foundation of tree-trunks and covered with planks, resulting in a roadway strong enough to permit the passage of trucks and tractors

SECRET

25X1

1602 · R1

2

SECRET

25X1

with trailers.

25X1

Utilities

5. There was no reservoir of drinking water which was taken directly from the natural pools which abounded in the swampy region, but where, in general, the water was turbid and bad. Electricity was produced by an enclosed, truck-mounted generator which supplied the elementary needs of the camp.

Communications

6. The camp communicated with the other compounds and with the village of Vizhael by means of wooden roads of the type previously described. There were provisional bridges along these roads at points where they crossed streams and small rivers which could be removed during the season of melting snows to allow the logs which had accumulated along the banks during the ~~xx~~ winter, to be floated down stream. In spite of the provisional nature of these bridges, they were strong enough to support a loaded truck or tractor and trailer. ~~Truck~~ Ordinary trucks and catapillar tractors with as many as three trailers were the usual means of transport. There was no highway which passed near the camp and the railroad was 60 kilometers distant at Zheleznodorozhnyy (N62-35, E50-52). There were no airfields, oil pipelines, or other construction of note in the vicinity.

Security

7. The camp was guarded from ~~the four~~ towers situated in the ~~corners~~ four corners. Dogs were leashed to sliding rings along the perimeter of the camp, allowing them to cover the entire ~~distance~~ length and forming a sort of "death zone," within which, anyone entering without permission was shot. This zone was illuminated with spot lights at night. *There were no other restricted areas or any precautions against air raids.*

Supplies

8. The entire area was an immense virgin forest and devoid of cultivation. The supplies brought in were always insufficient before the death of Stalin, and although they improved both in

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

1602 R1

3

quantity and quality at this time, they never became adequate for reasonable human nourishment and maintenance. There was no "black market" since there was nothing to buy or sell although the drivers occasionally brought in Vodka to sell at three or four times its value.

25X1

Work

9. The only work done by the internees was the felling of trees in the surrounding forest. Each internee had a fixed quota of work and ~~he~~ did not receive his meals unless this was completed. If he continued to fall below his quota, he was placed in the stockade.

Health and sanitation

10. The camp had an infirmary measuring 10 x 100 meters and staffed by three or four doctors and their assistants, all of whom were internees. In spite of the swamps and the abundance of mosquitoes, there were no epidemic diseases and the principle cause of death in the camp was overwork [&] ~~and~~ malnutrition. Cleanliness was enforced by an obligatory minimum of a weekly bath and shave, at which time the clothes were also changed and sterilized.

Recreation and sports

11. There was no recreation or sports. On one occasion only, internees from the various compounds produced a theatrical presentation which toured the camp.

Instruction and Education

12. Nothing in the nature of instruction or education existed before the death of Stalin. At the time of his death, weekly lectures were begun by the camp officers and given each day in a different barracks. These were always political and poorly received by the internees. The camp had no library or motion picture theater.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

16a2 R1

Legend for the sketch of the camp, page ____.

25X1

1. Hospital
2. Dining room
3. Baths
4. Shop
5. Stockade
6. Barracks
7. Garden
8. Guard personnel entrance
9. Guard headquarters
10. Main entrance
11. Living quarters for guards and their families
12. Watch towers
13. Dogs
14. Barbed wire
15. Wall built of stakes joined by barbed wire

SECRET

25X1

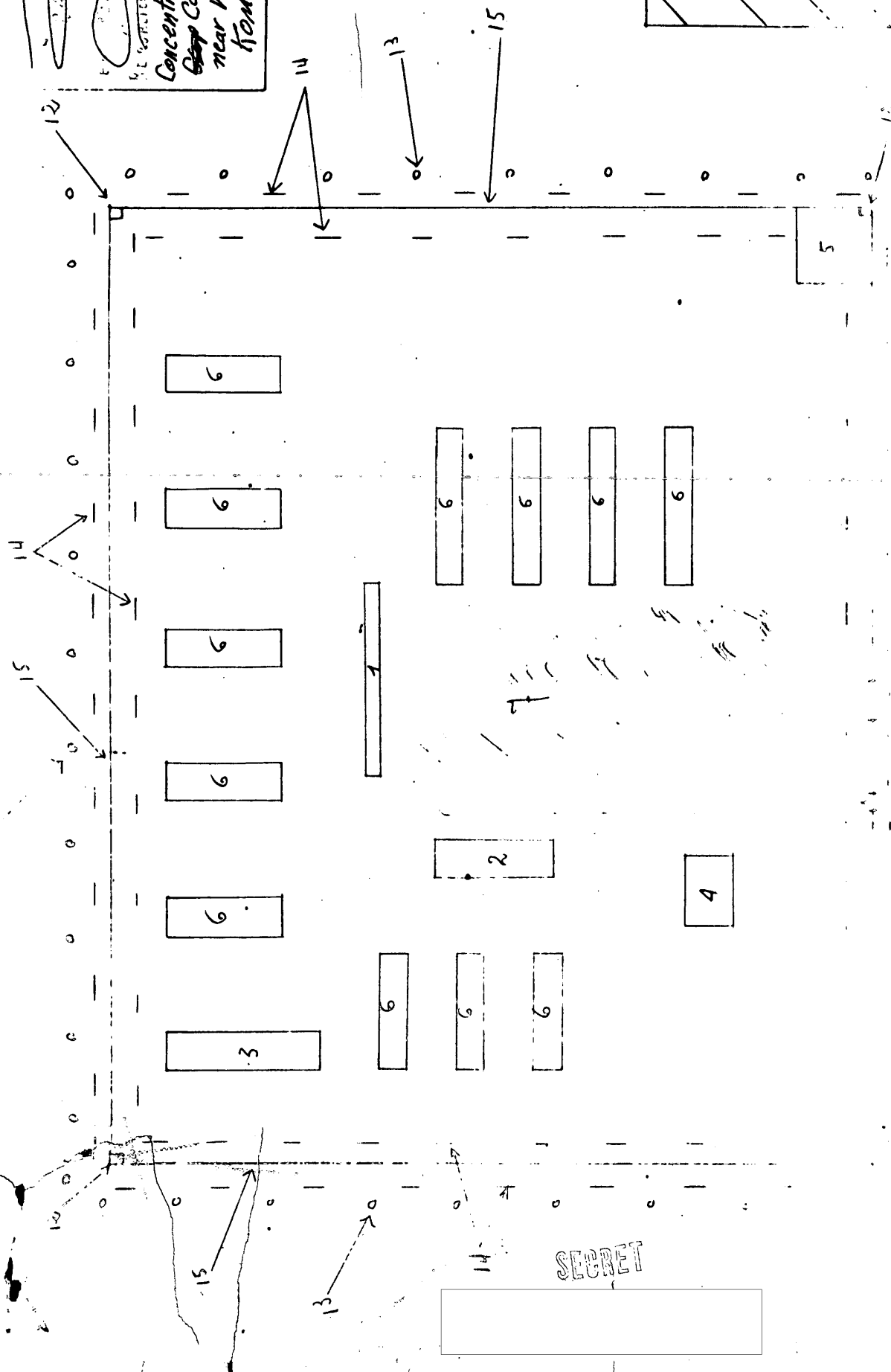
25X1

Page Denied

SECRET

25X1

Concentration
Camp 241/1
near Vozhael
Komi ASSR



SECRET

25X1

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/21 : CIA-RDP80T00246A047900330001-4

Page Denied

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied

25X1

1602 T2

1

Concentration camp 243/9

Location

1. [redacted] concentration camp 25X1
 243/9, situated 50 kilometers to the north of Cherdyn ~~INA~~ (N60-24, E56-29), the nearest town, and with its central offices in Solikamsk (N59-38, E56-47) 150 kilometers away. It had no relationships with other camps.

Circumstances

2. At the time of the death of Stalin, all foreigners were taken from the other concentration camps in the area and transferred provisionally to 243/9. The cause of this action was said to be that Moscow had ordered a review of their papers and that their release was immediately impending. This, in fact did happen, so ^{shortly} afterward,

25X1

3. At the end of a year in the camp, a protest was organized among the prisoners who still had not received their promised liberty [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] It took the form of a hunger-strike [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] At the end of ~~five~~ seven days of this,

[redacted] were taken out of the camp, marched 10 to 15 kilometers on foot, then transferred to a barge which followed the course of the river and finally placed in punishment cells in another concentration camp, number 243/8, whose location was unknown.

Description of camp

4. The camp was situated in an extensive ~~open~~ forest clearing on comparatively flat terrain with occasional rises. The camp was provisional, having been used for German prisoners during the war and later having been abandoned. The barracks were in ruins except for the central barrack which served as living quarters for a forest ranger. Trees had been felled for a radius of 20 kilometers around the camp by the German prisoners. Temperatures were extreme, dropping to 40°C below zero in the winter with a half-meter of snow and rising to 35°C during the five months of summer with heavy rain storms.

25X1

SECRET

1602

R2

2

25X1

25X1

Personnel

5. There were some 300 internees of various nationalities with Germans and Czechslovakians dominating. [REDACTED]

25X1

Communications

6. The camp was isolated from both roads and railroads and no trucks or tractors were used. The usual means of transport ~~was~~ in summer, ^{was} barges which followed the courses of the numerous rivers, and in winter, sleds which traveled along these same rivers when they were frozen.

Work

7. The internees did not work unless they wished to volunteer to work on the construction of the narrow-guage railroad some 16 to 18 kilometers away which proceeded from Solikamsk into the nearby forests. This railroad served for the transport of forest products and was of no militaty importance.

SECRET

25X1

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/21 : CIA-RDP80T00246A047900330001-4

25X1

Page Denied

Next 6 Page(s) In Document Denied

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/21 : CIA-RDP80T00246A047900330001-4

1. The Zimka Concentration camp was known as the Third Section, 25X1
501st Construction. [redacted]

[redacted]. The camp was located in the Kozhvinskiy area 25X1
of Komi ASSR, about 300 meters to the south of Zimka (N 62-53, 25X1
E 51-32). The most important nearby town was Pechora (N 65-25,
E 57-00), about 60 kilometers southeast of the camp. (See
Sketch No. 1 on page ____, giving the layout of the camp and
the surrounding area.) Prisoners' mail was addressed to Post
Office Box No. 501, Komi ASSR. The camp had a total of about
all of whom received the same treatment.
200 prisoners, both political and ordinary types. There were
about 30 soldiers and two or three officers guarding the camp.

[redacted]
[redacted] The prisoners' work 25X1

consisted of felling trees with axes and hand saws. The work
was done within a 14-kilometer radius of Zimka.

2. The camp was rectangular in shape and was about four-fifths as
wide as it was long. The land surrounding the camp was swampy
which was typical of the terrain in that area. There were many
forests. The Pechora was the main river, passing about 300
kilometers to the west of the camp. The Zimka River, a tributary
of the Pechora, passed about 500 meters to the east of the camp.
In some places it was about 25 meters wide by three meters deep.
It was frozen over from the end of October to April. During the

25X1

spring thaw, its volume increased considerably but it was navigable only by small, four-seater launches. 25X1

3. In spring the weather was cold and stormy with damp winds and frequent showers. The maximum temperature was 15° C, the minimum was 3° C, and the mean was 10° C. In summer the weather was pleasant with showers and light fog. There were variable winds. The temperatures in the order given above were 35°, 18°, and 25°. In fall the weather turned cold with hail storms, strong winds, and numerous thunderstorms; it froze on occasion. The temperatures were 10°, 0°, and 7°. In winter great snow storms occurred with winds of hurricane force and continuous freezing weather. The range of temperatures were from 20° below zero to 60° below zero and the mean was 35° below zero.
4. All buildings in the concentration camp, as in the town of Zimka, were constructed of logs. The camp was built by Polish prisoners in 1939.
5. Camp drinking water was pumped from the Zimka River by a three- or four-horsepower pump. Within the camp was an artesian well and there were two others in the immediate neighborhood but water from these three wells was not potable. There was no water-purifying plant in the area. A small electric powerhouse, 500 meters from the town of Zimka, supplied alternating current at 220 volts to the town and camp. Camp garbage was thrown into cesspools which were covered over when filled. Sometimes the garbage was burned in large piles.
6. The only road was a dirt one, five meters wide; it was in very bad condition. There was no railroad line and no airport. Transport trucks, from 1.5 to 3-metric-tons, were used. When the road to the camp and to the town of Zimka was closed to traffic, these trucks were replaced by motor sleds (see Sketch No. 2 on page ____).
7. No new buildings were under construction. It was believed that this was because the camp was to be moved to another location.
8. Soldiers guarding the camp were subordinate to the MVD. They wore a khaki uniform, high boots, and a cap. They were armed with

25X1

25X1

carbines [redacted]

25X1

There were no restricted areas.

The town of Zimka had no police authority or offices. Neither the prisoners nor the civilian population of Zimka had received any instructions concerning defense against possible air attacks.

8. The camp had one ~~small~~ 20-bed hospital; there was none in the town. ~~Illnesses were treated~~ The most common illness was stomatitis; it was treated with a bitter liquid which was extracted from birch trees. This liquid was kept in the dining room and those suffering from this ailment helped themselves. Prisoners also ate garlic to combat this illness. Other illnesses treated were influenza, pneumonia, and frostbite. *Prisoners took small yellow pills as a preventive.* There were a few cases of trachoma, especially among the inhabitants of Zimka; these were treated by a camp prisoner who was a doctor. All prisoners were made to shower every 15 days.

9. The prisoners had no recreational exercise. The camp had a small library with such books as the History of the USSR, History of the Communist Party, and several volumes of the autobiography of Pavl Karchagin, entitled How The Steel Was Tempered. Movies were shown once or twice a week. There were no lectures.

10. All food was of low quality, especially the wheat and rice which were the basic foods. ~~For the area~~. Nothing could be grown in the area. The camp had a small warehouse for storing food and clothes.

11. Following is the legend for Sketch No. 1, giving the layout of the camp and the surrounding area. The numbers in parentheses are keyed to those on the sketch.

~~LEGEND TO SKETCH No. 1~~

- (1) Town of Zimka, with about 200 inhabitants. ^{who lived in the town} ~~But~~ There were log houses—
sufficient to house 200 inhabitants, most of ~~whom~~ ^{who} were family of the camp
or
guards, ^{operating} workers at the powerhouse, forest rangers, and personnel ~~that operated~~
the water pump.
- (2) Pine forest.
- (3) Roadway going directly from the powerhouse and water pump to Zimka.
- (4) Three-meter-high wooden fence.
- (5) Barbed-wire fence.
- (6) Jail surrounded by barbed wire. It was built of pine and divided into
four rooms; two for the guard and two for the prisoners.
- (7) One-story pine barracks, Finnish type, about 25 X 10 meters, with wooden
~~roof~~ ^{bunk} roof. It contained ten ~~single~~ beds on each side; each bed was
occupied by two prisoners. The door ~~was~~ wooden and could be shut from the
inside. ~~There~~ No armed guard was stationed inside.
- (8) Wooden barracks, Finnish type.
- (9) One-story log barracks, used as prisoners' bathhouse, ^{20 x 8} About 20 X 8 meters.
It contained about 40 ~~small~~ wash basins.
- (10) Electric powerhouse, wooden, about 30 X 15 meters. It supplied electric
power to the camp and to Zimka. Personnel ^{were} ~~was~~ not recruited from among camp
prisoners. There were 5 or 6 persons on each shift.
- (11) Water pump installed in a small wooden building ^{of} about 40 square meters. ~~It~~
was operated by 2 or 3 prisoners, who also transported water to the camp.
- (12) Log dining room, about 25 X 10 meters. The tables and benches were also
wooden. The dining room was used to show moving pictures.
- (13) Wooden barracks, Finnish type.
- (14) Entrance to camp; ^{a wooden structure} about 8 meters wide by 6 meters long, and ~~made of wood~~.
- (15) Guard house.
- (16) Guard towers; in each there was ^{an M16} ~~a~~ soldier with rifle.
- (17) Small doghouses for sentry dogs used for night security. These dogs were

25X1

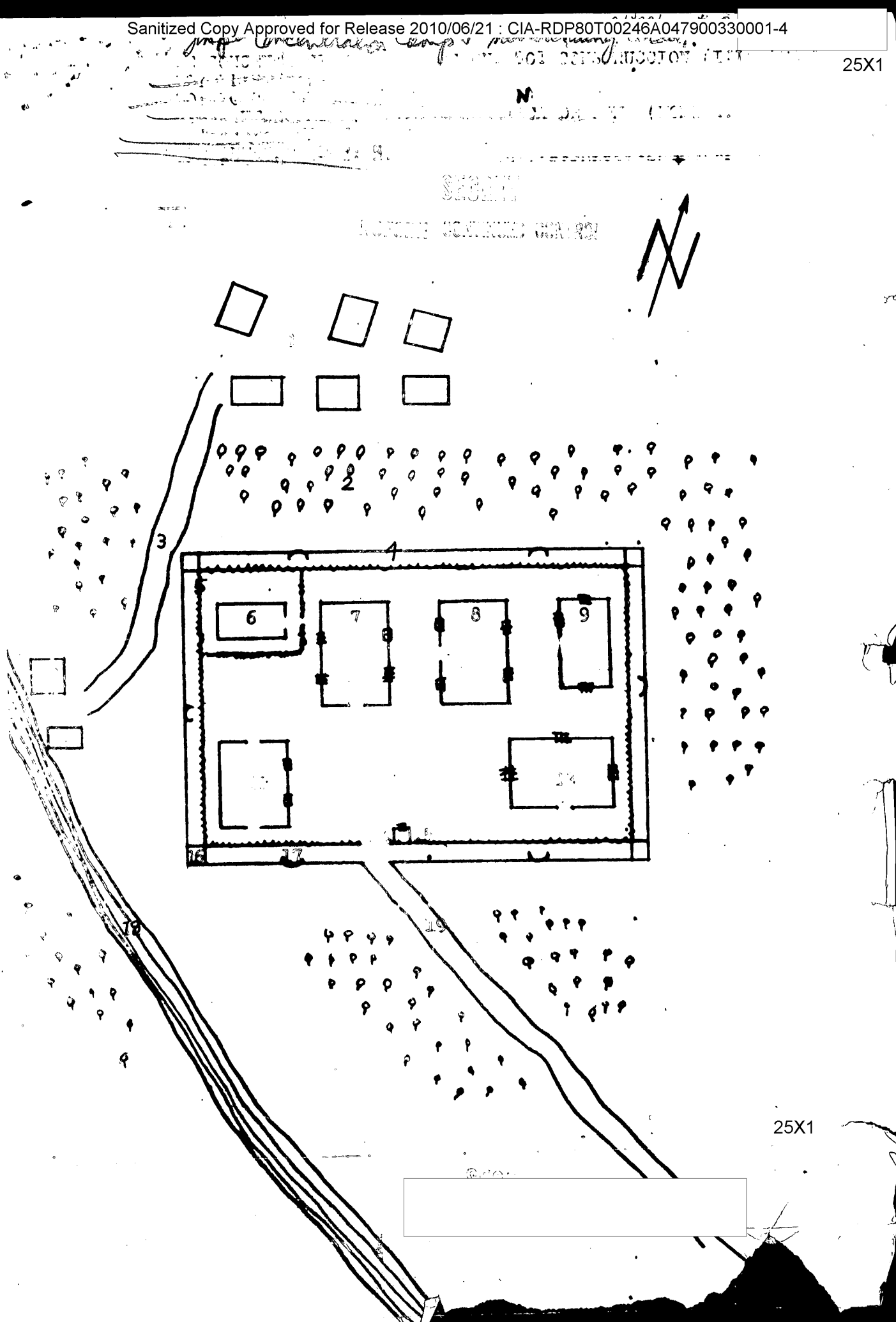
tied, but a ring permitted them to run the length of a cable.

(8.) The Zinka River.

(19) ~~Russ~~ Pechora highway. It was about 8 meters wide and had many holes in it.

In bad weather, heavy planks were placed over the most dangerous parts to make vehicular traffic possible.

25X1



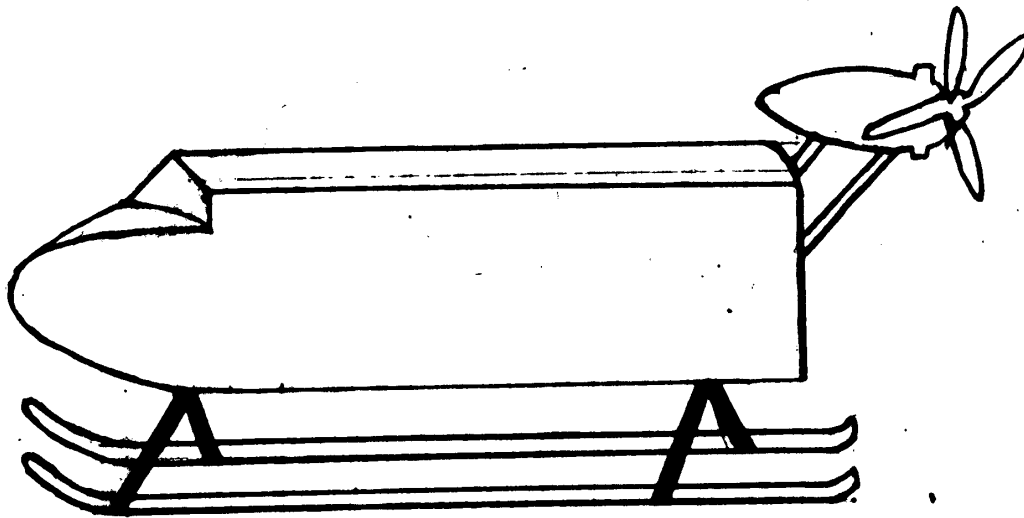
25X1

Duraluminum sled

SECRET

GENERAL 2 10

25X1



25X1

Fuel used: gasoline
Sled construction: All duraluminum
Ski construction: Hollow duraluminum
Speed: 100 kilometers an hour
Load: unknown
Tare weight: unknown

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/21 : CIA-RDP80T00246A047900330001-4

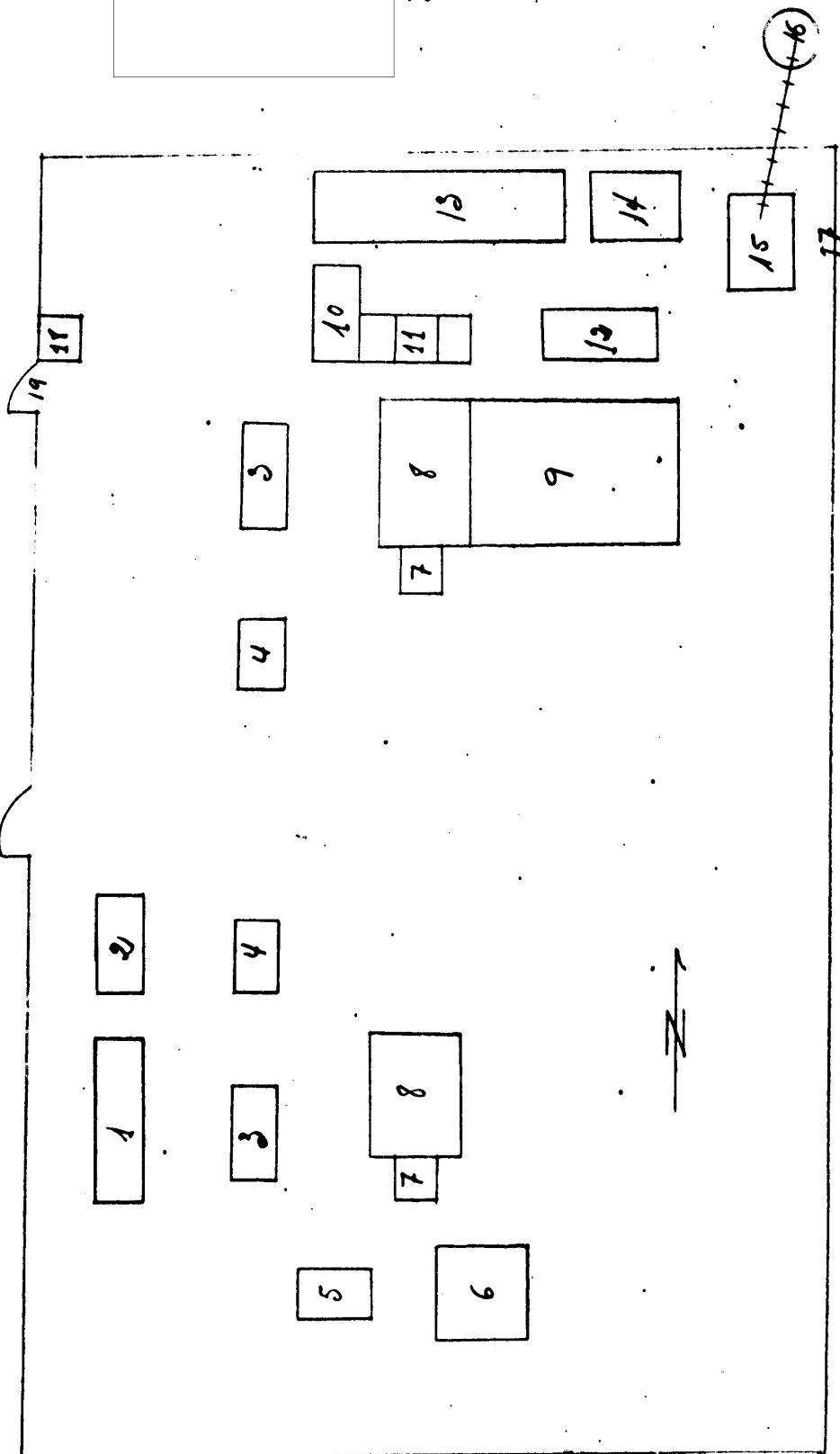
Page Denied

Next 9 Page(s) In Document Denied

SECRET

Vorbila Mine No 8

25X1



25X1

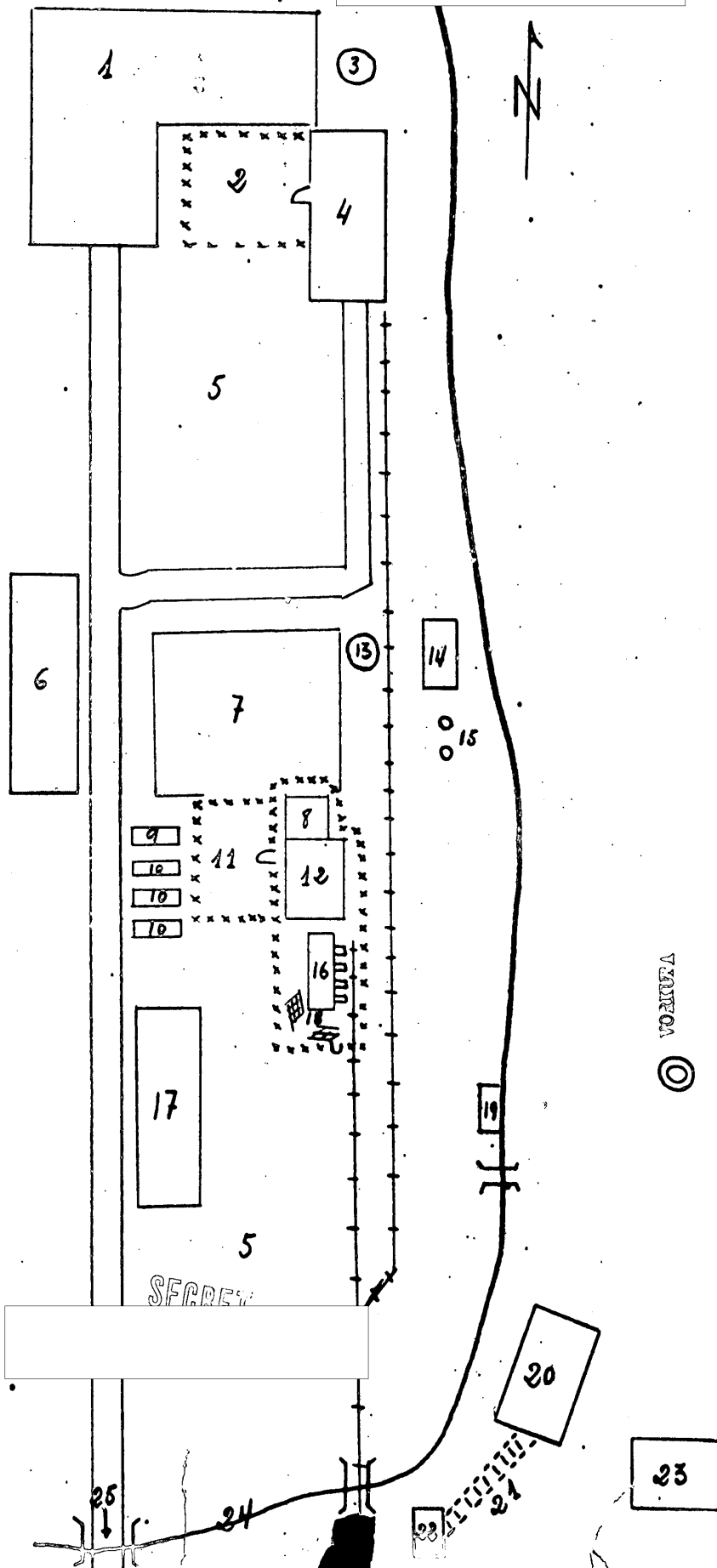
25X1

Page Denied

SECRET

25X1

Tundra Area



25X1

VORKUTA MINE N^o. 8

The mine was located two kilometers to the south of Vorkuta.

It was designated as N^o. eight.

It had belonged to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ^{then to} the Ministry of Justice, and at the date of info it belonged to the Coal Ministry.

This mine had three levels. Each level had eight coal seams. There was a distance of 120 meters between levels. There was a distance of from 180 to 240 meters between areas being worked.

PRODUCTION. The mine produced 300,000 metric tons annually with x 900 permanent workers on three shifts; two of the three shifts mined the coal; the other shift worked on repairs and transportation.

Coal was mined using the cycle system; every five cycles measures were taken to avoid cave-ins and the build-up of pressure.

In each shaft an average of from 18 to 22 workers worked as follows:

One man in charge of the "COMBAIN", which was a machine that cut the coal and transported it to the coal cars.

His helper.

Four timbermen.

Two men transporting timbers.

One dynamiter.

One driller.

Four drivers.

Two that cleaned out the cut.

One to hook together coal cars.

One electrician.

One man in charge of team.

One technician on watch.

Also on watch was an Engineer for the entire mine.

Each shift had a technician in gases and ventilation on watch to regulate and direct the flow of [REDACTED] air.

MACHINERY:

Each shaft had the following machinery:

One "Combain" with loader [REDACTED] for seams 1.45 meters high and two meters deep. the "Combain" had a 75 kilowatt motor.

Two [REDACTED] ^{watt} 2.5 [REDACTED] drills with drill-bits 2.20 meters long.

Three or four chain conveyors dismountable in pieces from 1.5' to 2.5 meters long.

[REDACTED]
A hand-operated electric crane.

An electric switch on each machine.

One crane to move the coal cars.

One gas meter.

All electric [REDACTED] apparatuses were explosion-proof although they were not hermetic. The gas meter was beside the "Combain"; if the level of gas exceeded two percent, personnel was evacuated from the shaft and ventilation was increased.

Blasting was done with "AMANT" explosive that did not produce ^{either} a high temperature or large quantities of poisonous gas.

Blasting was forbidden when there was more than one percent of fire-damp.

To avoid dust, which was explosive and caused silicosis, the "Combain" had a device to spray water mounted on the cutter.

At the exit to the shafts there were four or five wooden dumping platforms on balance beams; these platforms were loaded with three tons of inert dust. An explosion would cause the platforms to dump the dust, forming a curtain to keep the flames from spreading and putting out any flame that might have been produced.

TRANSPORTATION

In the interior of the mine, electric engines pulled twenty full coal cars loaded with three tons of coal each. To transport the coal from one level to another, there were conveyor belts and a coal-car "elevator" on which the coal cars were hooked six at a time and taken to the surface. On the surface, the cars were unhooked and transported by a crane to the loaders-sorters, where they were emptied.

PUMPING SYSTEM

Water seepage was at the rate of 450-500 cubic meters an hour. There were each four stainless-steel turbine pumps, with a capacity of 300 cubic meters an hour, and two 150 cubic meter pumps on the second level; that is, in four hours without electricity, the third level would be flooded, and in two hours the pumps would cease to work (sic). For this reason, on the surface there was an electric powerhouse with two generators for emergency use.

INSTALLATIONS

All buildings described were wooden with double walls filled with scoria and plastered on the inside and outside. The roofs were of non-corrugated sheet metal.

During the winter, the road leading from the mine to most of the installations was covered with wood so that the snow would not cut off any part of the installations.

[REDACTED] SKETCH

25X1

25X1

— LEGEND —

1. One-story building containing machine shop, electric shop, vulcanizing shop, electric motor repair shop, and the office of the Chief Mechanical Engineer. This [REDACTED] building was about 50 meters X 30 meters.
2. Small building used as a garage where three small trucks used at the mine were parked.
3. Engine room supplying power to elevators.
4. Fan room.
5. Office of engineer in charge of accident prevention.
6. Laboratory.
7. Installation of heaters which are one meter off the ground and made of [REDACTED] stone.
8. Mine entrances. The North entrance had a stairway that led to the second level.
9. Offices of the Section Heads.
10. Bath and dressing room for technicians.
11. " " " " " workers.
12. Storehouse for lamps and masks.
13. Management offices, bookkeeping offices, and offices of the technical section.
14. Emergency entrance.
15. Exit point for loaded coal cars.
16. Coal dump.
17. Wire fence around the mine area.
18. Guard post at civilian personnel entrance.
19. Civilian personnel entrance - prisoners from the *labor* [REDACTED] camp.

Outside of the mine area are the cleaning, sorting, and shipping sections.

Exploitation of this mine began 23 years ago; it is estimated it can maintain present production levels until 1970, when the mine will become an auxiliary of Mine 40.

VORKUTA LABOR CAMP No. 9

25X1

The name of the camp was Rech (sic) Lager No. 9.

It was formerly called Vorkuta Lager No. 9.

It was in the district of Vorkuta, the region of Syktyvkar, Republic of Komi, ASSR.

This camp was two miles from Vorkuta, in a town called Rudnik.

It was square and built on flat land.

The Vorkuta River was 400 meters to the west of the camp; the town of Vorkuta was two kilometers to the west of the camp. The camp was in a tundra region.

CLIMATE

There were only two seasons: summer and winter, the first lasting 2½ months or less.

Minimum temperature was 52 degrees C below zero; maximum was 16 degrees C above zero.

There were strong winds all year long, although they were less intense in summer.

It usually rained in summer, and in the winter snow fell to a depth of two meters;

freezing weather made the snow last all winter; there was no vegetation.

From the end of April until the middle of August there ^{was} 24-hour daylight;

during the rest of the year, there were three hours of day and 21 of night;

the sun rose about 0500 hours.

Buildings were one-story, with wooden double wall filled with scoria and plastered on the inside and outside as protection against the cold. The roofs were made of a kind of special wooden tile.

The jail was the only stone building; it had thick ^{exterior} and interior walls and a cement floor. It was surrounded by barbed wire. It had been built in 1952.

UTILITIES AND SERVICES

25X1

An abundant water supply was piped

the

water was potable.

The electric current was ~~not~~ alternating, 220 volts, 50 cycles.

Garbage and sewage: Garbage was picked up daily and taken to an unknown place.

Sewage was drawn from the cesspools once a week by prisoners and taken in tank cars to an unknown destination.

25X1

25X1

COMMUNICATIONS

The only highway in the area went from the camp to the station, passing through Vorkuta and the Mine No. 40.

The only railroad line ran between the mines and Vologda. It had only one track, but a second was [REDACTED] being laid.

The only railroad station was in Vorkuta. There was a stop at each mine [REDACTED] on the railroad route.

There was a railroad machine-and-materials dump in Vorkuta together with important shops for the repair of this materiel. The closest similar dump was 600 kilometers away. The Vorkuta dump stored engines, snow removal equipment, relief trains, etc.

There were three bridges in the area: one over the highway, one over the railroad, over the river, and one for pedestrians. The first had wooden framework and was built on pillars.

The second was all-metal. The third was a wooden bridge built on pontoons; this bridge was dismantled in the winter because when the river froze it was no longer necessary. The all-metal [REDACTED] bridge was the largest of the three and was about 120 meters long.

There was a civilian-military airport about three kilometers to the south of Vorkuta.

There were no oil pipelines; it was said that one might be built from Pechora to the Kara Sea.

The most common means of communication with other areas were (1) airplane, (2) train, (3) sleds pulled by reindeer. This was true throughout the year.

25X1

PASSIVE DEFENSE

25X1

The only passive defense [REDACTED] was the existence of [REDACTED] chambers built of cement in every mine; these chambers were fifty meters long and three meters wide. [REDACTED]

These chambers had a double door at each end; the doors shut hermetically. The inside door was provided with the common swivel ^{type} bar lock exerting pressure against a bevel in the jamb. Rubberstripping ~~on the~~ around the door ensured an airtight fit. These chambers had a separate ventilation system composed of air conduction tubes going to the outside; these tubes had [REDACTED] filters.

25X1

The interior of these chambers had a kind of vaulted niche every ten meters on alternate walls; these niches contained electric batteries for lighting. There was a telephone. There were benches on each side of the chamber.

These three chambers were on the second level and were reached by going down the mine stairway.

There was also a small compartment in which ^{were kept} some old masks of various kinds and even some [REDACTED] bellows-type masks.

These chambers were inspected every three months and reports handed in.

SECURITY

25X1

[REDACTED] there was no surveillance in the camp except ^{two} for the guards at the entrances to the camp; that is, as long as work norms were fulfilled, no one bothered about anything else. Most prisoners had a special pass and could stay in the street until [REDACTED] 2200 hours or 2400 hours; other prisoners were authorized to live outside of the camp and were obliged only to report for work every day. Only when work norms were not fulfilled or when prisoners were ill-behaved was the pass picked up and the affected workers sent to jail for a few days. Prisoners that did not have a pass could enter and leave the camp by giving ~~at~~ their names to the guards on duty. Sundays, only those prisoners authorized to live off the camp were allowed to go free. The jail was the best-guarded part of the camp; ^{on guard} [REDACTED] were 10 soldiers and a lieutenant [REDACTED] of the State Police.

And then
This change in internal order [REDACTED] general in all camps since the [REDACTED] death of Stalin. What camp authorities were most interested in was maximum production;

[REDACTED]

in some cases, to stimulate production, prisoners were paid monthly according to work done and were free to spend the money as they saw fit; some prisoners earned as much as 8,000 or 10,000 rubles, which was censured in the interior of the country, where work paid much less. Prisoners were even permitted to send money to their families.

Authorities facilitated accommodations to family members visiting prisoners; this gesture, together with the money earned by the prisoner, meant that [REDACTED]

25X1

persons reaching the end of their imprisonment might be encouraged to stay on [REDACTED] the job, if not at the mine, at least in the area.

Prisoners were not escorted [REDACTED] to work; they were accompanied only by the brigade chief, who picked up their passes, returning them at the end of the day.

25X1

A camp store was [REDACTED] supplied with almost everything, even foreign goods; this store was much better than any in Moscow, and prisoners could buy anything they wished. Prices were possibly lower than those normal in the USSR. The store stocked food, costume jewelry, watches, shoes, clothing, etc. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] prisoners wore no uniform and had no numbers on their backs; that is, prisoners [REDACTED] could dress as they chose to. No pharmaceutical products were on sale, since these were distributed free at the camp clinic.

25X1

[REDACTED] Because of the above, there was no black market.

The only agricultural products of the area were a few tomatoes and cucumbers raised in green houses.

Besides the store already mentioned, there was also a good restaurant within the camp in which one could eat what one wished at normal meal hours if one paid in advance.

There were about 5,000 prisoners at the camp, although many of them lived in the town; there were about 200 security guards, and 50 employees who were not prisoners.

25X1

Security guards were relieved periodically [REDACTED] or how long they served before reassignment.

25X1

Prisoners at this camp worked: in the mine, at the metallurgical plant, in construction, at the railroad station, and in the fields. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] about 900 worked in the mine and about 500 in the metallurgical plant.

25X1

25X1

At the camp there was a therapeutic hospital, a surgical hospital, a hospital for infectious diseases, a clinic, and an insane asylum; the insane asylum was for the use of all the camps. Each of the aforementioned had about fifty beds.

[redacted] attacks of insanity were common, due to atmospheric pressure (sic).

25X1

Inside the camp, there was an athletic field where prisoners played all kinds of games, soccer in summer, and skating in winter.

Sports activities were limited to after-work hours; championship games were organized with other camps, and prizes such as cups [redacted] and money prizes were awarded the winners. The favorite sport was soccer, and the guards and officers themselves sometimes took part in the games, causing serious incidents since only prisoners were allowed to play. Participation in these [redacted] sports was free of cost.

Scientific, technical, and political lectures were given, the first under the supervision of a Commission of the Institute for the Propagation of Scientific and Technical Knowledge, and the last by high political officers of the district, region, or republic. [redacted] Attendance of the lectures was not compulsory.

Lectures in the first group were supposed to be given free twice monthly, but when the lecturers were famous either as orators or as technicians their services were contracted for more often, through consultations of the Camp Head with the prisoners; in these cases, the prisoners [redacted] had to pay an admission fee.

Movies were presented once a week, and theater companies [redacted] were hired to visit the camp. There was a good library, with a great number of books of all kinds: technical, literary, theater, etc., written in German, Russian, Chinese, and Spanish. Furthermore, each prisoner was allowed to buy whatever books he wanted and to keep them as his private property.

25X1

SKETCH

TUNDRA AREA

25X1

LEGEND

1. Town at Mine №. 40.
2. Labor Camp at Mine №. 40.
3. Coal dump for Camp №. 40.
4. Mine №. 40.
5. Tundra.
6. Military athletic field; in summer used for football; in winter, for skating.
7. Town of Rudnik.
8. Metallurgical plant.
9. Inn, newly built, [REDACTED] usually for family members visiting prisoners.
10. Barracks for camp military personnel.
11. Camp №. 9, where source worked.
12. Mine №. 8, where source worked.
13. Coal dump for Camp №. 9.
14. Emergency electric powerhouse servicing the mine.
15. Water discharge pipelines, running from mine to river.
16. Loaders.
17. Town for the prisoners of Camp №. 9 that had permission to live outside of the camp.
18. Coal dump.
19. Civilian Nautical Club.
20. Electric powerhouse for the Vorkuta area.
21. Conveyor supplying the electric powerhouse with powdered coal coming directly from Mine NO. 8 and another mine.
22. Mine №. 13, [REDACTED] all of whose production was used to supply the electric powerhouse (№. 20) with coal.
23. Kapitalnaya Mine.
24. Vorkuta River.
25. Highway going to the station.

25X1

SUBJECT: Slave Labor Camps in the Tayshet-Angara River Area

25X1

GENERAL

[redacted]
[redacted] a numerous number of [redacted] forced labor camps were in existence all along the Tayshet-Komsomolsk railroad line. [redacted]

[redacted] These camps contained from 300 to 2,000 men all political or criminal type prisoners all engaged in construction of the railroad. [redacted] a prisoner force of 20,000,000 in all of Russia. [redacted] they would consist of a ready force against Russia in the event of a war. [redacted]

[redacted] the camps, as well as the line were hidden by thick forest areas common in that portion of the USSR. [redacted]

Description of Camps

2. The major portion of the camps along the Tayshet-Komsomolsk line was newly constructed by the criminal type prisoners who preceded the political prisoners in their work along the railroad line. All camps had the familiar barrack-type log construction shelters, which were embedded in the ground and not visible from the air. Construction of these shelters began by excavating a large hole, the size of the shelter. Log-side supports were then placed around the hole, followed by the roof which was then covered with dirt. The shelters were approximately 12 meters by 6 meters and housed one hundred persons who slept on board beds without undressing. The shelters were heated with wood and stoves were never allowed to die down. The shelters were provided with 4 to 6 windows, but these were never opened, and the air was always foul. The camp had its own dining hall, kitchen and clinic, and the size of the camp varied according to the number of prisoners.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

Work Conditions

25X1

3. The work day generally began at 0800 hours and ended at 1700 hours depending on time of year, but 8 hours of work was demanded of each prisoner. Lunch lasted one hour and ten minutes break was allowed every hour. In winter the temperature dropped to 45° to 50° centigrade below zero, which caused a great deal of hardship among the workers. Some had their fingers frozen, or their cheeks, ears or nose and had to be hospitalized or remained in the barracks. In summer the temperature rose to 20° Cent. above zero and with this came the hordes of the so called tiny mosquito which caused undue hardship to man and beast. The horse which was used in terrain and work where the diesel tractor was useless, was protected from the mosquito on the under belly, eyes and nose by nets. The workers protected themselves by their clothing and nets. Anyone caught without any protection would be attacked by the millions of mosquitos that rose up from the ground like clouds of dust, and one could lose consciousness within five minutes. To undress, a prisoner and let the mosquitos attack was one form of punishment. Due to the swampy land, the mosquitos thrived and could not be controlled. Under the circumstances the men refused to bathe and fleas were quite common which necessitated shaving hair from all parts of the body.

Sanitary Conditions, Diseases and morale

4. Each camp was generally equipped with a clinic which consisted of a barrack holding six beds. Two doctors were available; one a prisoner; the other an NKVD officer. In addition there was one feldsher or doctor's assistant and the men carried a first aid kit to their place of work. Those diagnosed as being very ill were transferred to camps with larger clinics and better facilities, but often times the patient died before the case was declared serious. Tuberculosis among the prisoners was very prevalent, followed by stomach disorders and "tsynga" (scurvy) which was des-

25X1

25X1

interesting cribed as a disease which swelled the feet to balloon size and the teeth loosened and fell out preceded by death.

25X1

Water was obtained from wells during the summer and from melted snow in winter. Well water was usually tested by the doctor and chlorine added when needed. Morale in the camps was very low. To avoid being transferred to undesirable camps, some prisoners resorted sewing buttons on their skin or putting a lock through the skin. To avoid going out in bitter cold; some would inhale powdered sugar which would show as traces of TB; some would take injections of tobacco in liquid form while others would purposely attempt escape and be shot. Some would even cut off their fingers.

Camp Security

5. The camps were well guarded at all times. In addition to the regular posted guards, there was one NKVD soldier assigned to approximately 10 prisoners; the NKVD men were recognized by their dress. They wore a green suit, red shoulder boards and hat was blue on top with red ribbon around brim. The officers had silver or gold colored shoulder boards with stars according to rank. The guards were equipped with machine guns on tripod; whereas the NKVD soldiers were equipped with rifles and automatic submachine gun with round or long curved magazine. Anyone attempting to escape was shot and an escapee was shot after being captured. In addition to guards and NKVD soldiers, there were many who were engaged to spy on the activities of fellow prisoners that no one trusted one another.

Camp Meals

6. In general, meals consisted of 750 grams of black bread for the entire day plus coffee or tea for breakfast; chick pea soup and potato puree or barley mush for lunch and supper consisted of the same as lunch or fish and barley mush. Meat was served once or twice weekly in small portions, ^{IN} and stew form. Prisoners often augmented their meals with food received from home or often bought food at

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

- 4 -

25X1

the local store with money received from home. If a prisoner refused to work or complete the work day plan, he was restricted to 400 grams of black bread and soup for the entire day.

Personnel and Post Office Number

7. The prisoner personnel in all the camps [redacted] was 25X1
predominantly Chinese and Koreans, Japanese and Germans, with many Poles, Finns, Estonians and a few Americans and English. [redacted]

Personnel changes occurred 25X1

daily due to deaths, hospitalization and camp transfers. Only one out of a group of 1,000 prisoners was freed within a period of three months. The number coming always varied and source recalled that the biggest group that ever arrived was 800 prisoners in 1952. 25X1

Military Information

8. [redacted] there were no military installations in the work area, [redacted]

[redacted] there were no restricted areas near any of [redacted] camps, and the only classified project [redacted] was the Tayshet-Komsomolsk trunk line.

25X1

SECRET

25X1